

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2015

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Spencer announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Delaware Open Meeting Act.

Attendance: Mayor Michael Spencer, Vice Mayor John Joswick, Commissioner Timothy Chatburn, Commissioner Kathy Joseph, Commissioner Michele MacDonald, Town Manager Wendy King, Solicitor Stephen Robinson, Police Chief Michael Capriglione.

Minutes from the meeting of November 19, 2015, were approved via motion by Mayor Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Kathy Joseph. All ayes.

Public Comment: Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna and Associates, once again thanked the town for its continued support of the Delaware Kids Fund 5K and awarded the town \$2,500 so each commissioner could donate \$500 to the worthy cause of his/her choice.

There was no correspondence.

Town Manager King reviewed her report. The budget figures that were calculated incorrectly were fixed. Comcast is doing an underground build-out on Water Street in February, 2016 (projected timeline). Medical cards for the employees were delayed due to a software error on the state's part, but all has been corrected. Theresa DeSanto will be invited to a future town meeting to discuss the town's potential participation in the worker's compensation insurance pool. She provided an update on 102 E. Ayre – the new homeowner pulled a building permit for \$3,000 based on recommendations from a structural engineer that conducted a walkthrough of the premises.

\$60,000 will be sent to the Victims Compensation Fund to offset accumulated liability.

Police Chief Capriglione reviewed the departmental statistics for November.

Alderman's Report - \$42,257 in fines collected.

Maintenance Report – presented with no questions.

Code Enforcement - Vice Mayor Joswick questioned all of the cars that the new business at the former American Automotive had parked in the street. Town Manager King advised that Enforcement Officer Walker was on top of these auto businesses and that he is stickering non-compliant cars and talking to business/property owners almost daily. There may need to be a mechanism in place where business

owners are only able to be allowed a small percentage of parking density overflow in the streets. This will be revisited.

Solicitor Robinson attended a meeting for municipal attorneys regarding municipal election laws. Executive session in reference to personnel matters will take place.

Vice Mayor Joswick attended the Red Clay School Board meeting and property reassessment was the focus. There was brief discussion about timeline and how this would not really affect town residents.

Mayor Spencer talked to Kurt Pilarski, Waste Management, about the recent bridge closure due to work being done on the James Street Bridge. Mr. Pilarski was concerned as the closure may have affected the business. DelDot was responsive to the needs of the business and the work was completed earlier than anticipated. Pearl Harbor Ceremony occurred at the new time (11:00 am) and the coordinator did a fine job. The Comp Plan committee will be getting together in January to be reviewing areas in the updated comp plan that need to be addressed in relation to districts.

Second Reading/Adoption of 2015-004 – An Ordinance to establish Ella Johnson Park as being zoned Town of Newport zoning classification “Conservation” (CON) district and that the Town of Newport zoning map shall reflect that Conservation District zoning classification. Motion to accept – Mayor Spencer; seconded by Vice Mayor Joswick. There was no public comment. Roll call vote – all ayes.

Second Reading/Adoption of FY2016 Operating Budget. No public comment. Motion to accept – Mayor Spencer; seconded by Commissioner Joseph.

Adjourn for brief Executive Session at 7:32 pm.

Reconvene to Public Session at 7:41.

Motion to adjourn – Vice Mayor Joswick; seconded by Commissioner Chatburn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.